

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 083822 TOSEC 030154

NODIS

LONDON FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG

SUBJECT: TIMING AND SCENARIO FOR ERW ANNOUNCEMENT

1. ALTHOUGH TIMING DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY PRESIDENTIAL PARTY, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SET DOWN IN ONE PLACE SOME OF THE TIMING AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO THE ERW ANNOUNCEMENT, AS FOLLOWS:

2. SCHMIDT HAS NOW ASKED THAT THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCE-
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MENT BE SET AFTER GENSCHER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE, AT THE EARLIEST, ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY. IF, BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF LEAKS WE FELT WE HAD TO PROCEED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT PRIOR TO THE GENSCHER VISIT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SEND A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO SCHMIDT EXPLAINING OUR REASONS.

3. CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS: CONGRESS MUST BE INFORMED PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BUT AS CLOSE TO IT AS POSSIBLE. IF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO BE MADE ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY, AFTER THE GENSCHER VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, OR WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY MORNING, DEPENDING ON THE TIME OF DAY CHOSEN FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT. WE WILL NEED TALKING POINTS FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS CLEARED IN ADVANCE, (STATE 081517 CONTAINS DRAFT FOR YOUR REVIEW), PARTICULARLY IF THE STORY LEAKED AND THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY DECIDED ON URGENT CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

4. NOTIFICATION TO OTHER ALLIES; WE ARE TRANSMITTING SEPTTEL A DRAFT CABLE FOR YOUR REVIEW, WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WOULD SEND TO ALL NATO CAPITALS AND USNATO WHEN THE PRESIDENT GAVE THE GO AHEAD TO NOTIFY ALL ALLIES, BOTH IN CAPITALS AND THE NAC. WE MIGHT BEST MEET ALLIED SENSITIVITIES BY INFORMING THEM ON SATURDAY, I.E. AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE NOW THAT WE HAVE INFORMED THE FRG. THIS WOULD, HOWEVER, GREATLY INCREASE THE RISK OF LEAKS PRIOR TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON. SCHMIDT HAS REQUESTED THAT THE OTHER ALLIES NOT BE INFORMED UNTIL AFTER THE GENSCHER VISIT. WE COULD INFORM THE ALLIES ON THE EVENING BEFORE OR THE MORNING OF THE SCHEDULED WASHINGTON SECRET

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PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. PRESS POSTURE: WE HAVE TRANSMITTED (STATE 081237) A DRAFT WHITE HOUSE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR REVIEW. WE WILL ALSO BE REVIEWING IN LIGHT OF SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER MEETINGS. WE ARE ALSO PREPARING DRAFT QS AND AS.

WE WILL NEED TO CONSIDER WHERE THE ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE MADE. WE WILL ALSO NEED CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE ON WHAT TO SAY TO THE PRESS IN THE EVENT OF LEAKS PRIOR TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT; IN THAT EVENT, WE COULD SIMPLY SAY THAT THERE WILL BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SUBJECT ON A GIVEN DAY.

WE MAY ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A JOINT BACKGROUNDER FOR THE PRESS, LED BY SUBSTANTIVE OFFICIALS FROM THE NSC, DOD AND STATE. AS FOR BRIEFING THE PRESS, WE MAY WANT TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A SENIOR LEVEL ON-THE-RECORD PRESENTATION. THIS WOULD GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT OUR POSITION IN AN ORGANIZED WAY.

6. AMBASSADOR VON STADEN TOLD DEPARTMENT MARCH 31 HE BE-

LIEVES THE FRG GOVERNMENT'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPERATIVES
REQUIRE THAT AT LEAST TO OUTWARD APPEARANCES, THE FINAL US
DECISION APPEARS TO HAVE REMAINED OPEN UNTIL AFTER
GENSCHER HAD HAD A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN FRG VIEWS DIRECTLY TO
THE PRESIDENT. VON STADEN SAID HE RECOGNIZES THE HAZARDS
OF LEAKS BUT HOPES THAT IF INDEED THE FINAL PRESIDENTIAL
DECISION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN SUCH LEAKS NEED NOT FORCE THE
PACE OF THE DECISION AND ITS ANNOUNCEMENT. HE STRESSED THAT
IN HIS VIEW THIS MATTER IS AS SERIOUS AS ANY US-FRG ISSUE
HE HAS DEALT WITH IN HIS TEN YEARS IN WASHINGTON. WE

WOULD HOPE YOU WOULD AGREE WITH US THAT WE SHOULD DO
EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACCEDE TO SCHMIDT'S REQUEST THAT
ANNOUNCEMENT BE HELD UNTIL AFTER GENSCHER VISIT. COOPER
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